

SENATOR MILLS RIDDLES THE SENATE.

Badly Exposes Its Weakness in a Signed Article.

HE URGES THE NEED OF SPEEDY REFORM
And Suggests as the Remedy the Adoption of the Previous Question,
WHICH WILL BRING A DIRECT VOTE.

It is a fact not to be disguised that the Senate of the United States has been for some years losing its hold on the confidence and support of the American people. There are many reasons for this, but the chief of them is the fact that the Senate is only necessary now to speak of that upon which the attention of the country is so earnestly fixed. The complaint is universal that public business is not despatched as it should be. The difficulty arises from the fact that the Senate has no rule by which a majority of its members can bring the body to a vote on a pending proposition. Every member can speak when he pleases and as long as he pleases when any measure is before it for consideration except unobjectionable bills. Under the existing code one Senator, if so disposed, can prevent the passage of any measure as long as he can talk.

The Senate meets at 12 o'clock. From that hour till 2 o'clock P. M. the time is given to reading the journal, introducing and referring petitions, bills, and resolutions, and making reports of committees. After the session is gone through a bill may be called up, which

shall be shut off and the legislative body be permitted to exercise its constitutional functions. Every legislative body has the inherent right of self-government, but no one would be capable of self-government which would refuse to any of its members the right to offer amendments and discuss the effects of measures pending before it. There may be, and doubtless is, in the Senate, a majority of members who are wise and wicked in their conduct, but that is not the rule, certainly not the exception. The Senate is a body of natural right to the majority it becomes equally culpable. Such excesses are rare in the history of the Senate. They have only occurred in periods of great political disturbance. Scenes like this occurred just preceding our civil war, and in both cases they were the product of the revolutionary spirit which preceded and followed that war. But there is nothing in our present situation to call into existence such methods of parliamentary warfare.

The Senate should begin at once to reform existing conditions. It should lose no time in putting itself in harmony with the sentiment of the country. Speaking against time is not debate. Neither is speaking to empty benches. One is time improperly consumed, the other is time thrown away. Holding the floor and speaking to the Congressional Record is not always for the purpose of preventing a vote. That is exceptional. It is habitually done in sincere advocacy of or opposition to the pending measure. When one becomes interested in a subject and knows there is no limit to debate he glides easily along without measuring the moments as they fly. One abuse begets another. When long speeches are being delivered the chamber is almost empty. Senators go to the departments to attend to the business of their constituents or to their rooms to keep up their correspondence. They will not remain to hear, nor will they read the speech in the Record, and, however strong and luminous, it is lost.

All this can be remedied by the adoption of the previous question in the Senate rules. If the Senate would amend the twenty-second rule and provide for the previous question, which cuts off debate and amendments, and provide that when it is moved there shall be entertained by the Chair but two motions—one to fix the day to which the Senate shall adjourn and one to adjourn before the previous question shall be put—it will solve the problem that has so long vexed it, and which has brought upon it so much criticism. The conservation of the Senate may always be safely relied upon to prevent the arbitrary use of the rule. The

and for the time join the ranks of the majority and help them to do the work committed to them and to oppose which the minority were sent to the Senate.

MR. BLAINE'S REPLY.
In the great civil rights contest, when Mr. Blaine was Speaker of the House, his party demanded of him to count as present to make a quorum those who were present and refused to answer to their names. His reply was "A majority can do business." There was a very large Republican majority; that majority earnestly favored the Civil Rights bill. There was a minority of Democrats who as earnestly opposed it. The Republicans left their seats, remained at home or elsewhere, and the majority side of the question had no majority present. So, by an arbitrary method, they sought to make the minority help them to a quorum, and thus pass the bill to which that minority were opposed.

Such power ought never to be conferred on a presiding officer. It has been conferred by the House on its Speaker, and it has been charged that under that rule members have been counted present who were not even in the Capitol. Be that as it may, it is a long step toward giving the Chair control over the legislation of the body. To hold supreme control over legislation is a duty which the constitution has devolved upon the members, and it is one which they cannot rightfully abdicate or transfer. This proposition to authorize the Chair to count as present those who do not answer to their names when the roll is called is intended to prevent a Senator from suggesting the absence of a quorum and compelling the roll to be called. This feature of obstructive tactics is only employed when the minority are trying to prevent a vote and the majority are trying to enforce it by the sitting out process.

This as I have shown will be cured by the adoption of the previous question, which sweeps away all obstructions and brings the Senate to a direct vote.

ROGER Q. MILLS.

The Southern Man in New York.

It is difficult to study any live creature outside of its natural habitat. The only chance most of us have to observe southern men is in New York city, where they inevitably respond to and are acted upon by its complex life. On his native heath we are assured that he is graceful in person, suave in manner, chivalrous in spirit. These make a combination of traits that might well excite enthusiasm in those who know the southerner, and stimulate interest in those who do not. That New York city contained so large a proportion of men so endowed was indeed a cheering thought.

When the first southerner came into view it was an exciting moment. His lineage corresponded to the most exacting ideal of a people geographically well born. He wore a cutaway coat, spoke of most things he liked as exquisite, placing the

Rattlesnakes, Butterflies, and . . . ?

Washington Irving said, he supposed a certain hill was called "Rattlesnake Hill" because it abounded in—butterflies. The "rule of contrary" governs other names. Some bottles are, supposedly, labeled "Sarsaparilla" because they are full of . . . well, we don't know what they are full of, but we know it's not sarsaparilla; except, perhaps, enough for a flavor. There's only one make of sarsaparilla that can be relied on to be all it claims. It's Ayer's. It has no secret to keep. Its formula is open to all physicians. This formula was examined by the Medical Committee at the World's Fair, with the result that while every other make of sarsaparilla was excluded from the Fair, Ayer's Sarsaparilla was admitted and honored by awards. It was admitted because it was the best sarsaparilla. It received the medal as the best. No other sarsaparilla has been so tested or so honored. Good motto for the family as well as the Fair: Admit the best, exclude the rest.

Any doubt about it? Send for the "Curebook." It kills doubts and cures doubts.
Address: J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.

THE WORLD OF LABOR.

Ohio has 7500 doctors.
We export better chins.
There are 61,000 breweries.
Louisville has a label league.
Moscow has a 42,000-pound bell.
Paris carpenters work on Sunday.
Lyons shoe workers are on strike.
Montana is dredging by electricity.
London carpenters work eight hours.
Great Britain has a 500-acre orchard.
Russia, Sweden, "firemen" are women.
Springfield (Mass.) is a women's town.
Ohio saloonkeepers have a State union.
Cleveland boys struck for 50 cents a day.
Mrs. Langtry has a \$1,500 dressing bag.
Fall River weavers struck against a cut.
Great Britain has 55,000 union carpenters.
Ohio single taxers have a State association.
All Minneapolis union bookbinders are employed.
All Montana State printing must bear the union label.
Holyoke, Mass., is considering municipal insurance.
San Antonio tinners struck for \$3.40 and eight hours.
Negro Industrial Congress met at Huntsville, Ala.
Iowa miners will resist a cut below 75 cents per ton.
A "Federal Union" is to be formed at Washington.
Duluth has twenty-five union painters and decorators.
Detroit encaustic tile layers have been conceded \$4 a day.
Kansas City daily clerks want the Sunday law enforced.
Cigar makers will have a label exhibit at the Tennessee Centennial.
St. Paul barbers are prosecuting people who shave on Sunday.
New York laundry workers won 20 per cent. advance in wages.
Boston Central Labor Union protests against the execution of Rivera.
Brie (Pa.) painters were conceded nine hours and 25 cents a week.
Salem and Lawrence, Mass., carpenters want the eight-hour day in May.
Minnesota's Legislature will probably create the office of State Fire Marshal.
Many Muncie (Ind.) merchants have agreed not to handle non-union goods.
New York Central Labor Union wants the State Board of Arbitration abolished.
Iowa printers object to county and State printing being done outside the State.
The Danvers (Mass.) Municipal Union, of Jersey City, has increased its initiation fee to \$10.
Atlanta tinners are winning their demand for nine hours and a minimum of \$2 per day.
Superior, Wis., lathers claim that unionists from Duluth have cut rates in Superior.
Des Moines tailors organized.
Cleveland has but twenty-six non-union bricklayers.
At a meeting of carpenters in Boston last week Mayor Quincy advocated the eight-hour day.
New York Central Union endorsed the bill making 10 hours a day's work on street railways.
Boston printers denounced the Legislature for killing the bill to establish a State printing plant.
Three Milwaukee carpenters joined and bid on the contractors.
Brooklyn Elevated Railroad Company discharged all its women ticket sellers. The girls struck.
San Diego builders and contractors held a mass-meeting to denounce a brewery that did not give the contract for a building to a local firm.
Milwaukee carpenters get from 18 to 20 cents an hour. Stonemasons earn 30 to 40 cents an hour.
At the Tennessee State mines 100 coke ovens have been erected and convicts will be employed.
New Castle (Del.) people have asked the Legislature to allow them to introduce the single tax system.
Dallas (Tex.) women have organized a Home Industry Club. Only articles made in Texas will be purchased.
Cleveland structural ironworkers want eight hours and 35 cents an hour.
Superior, Wis., bricklayers demand a day's work for eight hours and \$2.50 a day.
No strikes.
The big strike of cigarmakers at Chicago has terminated. These 600 employees did not organize till they struck. Their wages have been advanced and they are now employed.
Washington Central Labor Union's Legislative Committee is in communication with Senator Wellington and Congressman Mudd in reference to a bill, the purpose of which is to protect labor advocates.
Chicago beer will not be boycotted after all. Brewers have agreed to use all avail-

able union barrels, and the coopers have promised to increase the number of union concerns.

A resolution proposing legislation to empower the Public Printer to appoint applicants for positions without passing a civil service examination was defeated by the Washington Typographical Union.

Previous to the organization of the Lake Carriers' Association of Engineers, members of the Seamen's Union received \$15 a month. Now the union is dead and lucky men get \$1 a day.
A Glasgow (Eng.) iron works discharged non-unionists rather than have a strike. The dismissed men sued the union and were awarded \$25,000 damages. Several Courts have affirmed the decision and now a final decision is awaited, the case being before what is practically the Supreme Court of England.

Minnesota Legislature passed a resolution "that it should be the policy of all our public institutions to purchase their supplies within the State unless a material reduction in price be secured in other markets, and that our home dealers should, in every instance be given an opportunity to bid in competition with those outside the State."

The Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers has just won an important victory by forcing the supervisors of Wayne County, Mich., to discriminate against non-union steel firms in the selection of structural iron material to be used in the erection of the new county building at Detroit.

Delegate Smith, of the Printers' Union, raised the question whether the District of Columbia Council would not have the right to ask the Common Council for a denotation to the Labor Temple fund, in view of the fact that it had appropriated \$20,000 for a G. A. R. building and it was allowing thousands of dollars every year for the Art Museum.

The Brewers' Union of Milwaukee has modified their demand for an eight-hour day with ten hours' pay. At a meeting yesterday in the Liederkreis Hall they agreed to submit a new proposition, in which they ask for an eight-hour day for six months, beginning April 1, and ending September 30. The rest of the year they agree to work ten hours, but insist on ten hours' pay the year round.

No paper in Washington has done so much for labor as the Times. Before its advent little labor news was printed in the District of Columbia. Publicity, the best aid to unionism, and the Times has been more than generous in covering the news of this field. Yet there's a section of organized labor that is so ungrateful that it does not give the Times credit for the best aid to unionism, and the Times has been more than generous in covering the news of this field. Yet there's a section of organized labor that is so ungrateful that it does not give the Times credit for the best aid to unionism, and the Times has been more than generous in covering the news of this field.

A Potter County Penna., man has offered Typographical Union No. 6 of New York, 500 acres of land on certain conditions, the chief one being that the donor is willing to give \$10,000, provided a similar sum be given by the union toward the development of the land. It is proposed to divide it into fifteen-acre lots for farming. Mr. Connell called the attention of the union to the fact that it has 1500 members unemployed and superannuated and he thinks it would be a good idea to settle them on farms.

MAJOR BREATHED'S DARING.
Gen. Rosser Relates the Thrilling Fight and Fall of the Hero.

Editor of The Times:
Sir—I read in The Times of Sunday, April 4th, a letter from Mr. C. B. Hood, of Culpeper, Va., headed "Battle of High Bridge."

I enclose you a letter I had published in the Pulaski News-Review of April 20, which I received some weeks ago from General Thomas L. Rosser, and which shows what valuable service Major Breathed did at the "Battle of High Bridge." I do not pretend to dispute what Mr. C. B. Hood saw, for he may be right in his account of this part of it. But Breathed was a man who never confined himself to any one point of a battlefield, but always watched his chance to strike when and where he could do the most good, and if Mr. C. B. Hood took part as stated by him in a fight at one point of this battlefield, General T. L. Rosser and the writer of the papers copied from the Confederate Museum in Richmond saw Breathed at other points of the field, for I saw the ring, pistol, etc., that Breathed took from the officer mentioned in museum papers only a few hours after the fight when I met Breathed.

In your article in The Times of March 21st you mention the "pistol Breathed wore, also the one he presented to Miss Shepherd, of Shepherdstown, W. Va." The pistol taken from the Federal colonel that shot Major Breathed on the Wilson Road in 1861 is now owned by Mrs. S. J. Drewry, of Chesterfield county, Va., to whom it was presented at the time he was lying sick from his wound.

J. M. GILL,
Pulaski, Va., April 4, 1897.

Following is the article referred to above:

"Strip almost any gallant or heroic act performed at a fire, at sea or on the battlefield of the circumstances of performance and the picture will look tame and commonplace; and then if the same performance is clad and recounted in all the terror of the tragic details, which attended it, the pulse will be made to quicken, and the heart to swell with wild emotion. It is said that 'prudence is the better part of valor,' and that may be true; but it is hardly ever an element of the daring deeds performed in the great tragedies of life which the world delights to listen to and class as heroic. It is true that intelligent courage is always tempered with caution, but this simply gives direction and effect to the accomplishment of the deed contemplated when the time arrives for action.

Strategy and cunning may be called prudence, and a cautious observance of the principles involved in them, is wise, but when the moment for action arrives, true courage acts openly and with the greatest boldness.

There is a crisis in every conflict which sagacity instantly detects, and then courage grasps it and acts with perfect disregard of all considerations of personal reward and strikes the decisive blow of victory or defeat.

In the Army of Northern Virginia, there was no command more distinguished for genuine pluck, than the Stuart Horse Artillery, and one of the most noted officers in that command, for fighting qualities, was Major James Breathed.

Breathed was a young man, and was one of the "gallant" Pennam's most trusted.

On the retreat of General R. E. Lee from Gettysburg to Appomattox, I reached Riker's Station on the morning of the 6th of April about 8 o'clock, my division being the van-guard of our army.

General Theodore Read, of General Ord's staff, had just passed this place en route for the High Bridge over the Appomattox river, in command of two regiments of infantry and the Fifth Massachusetts Cavalry, the latter commanded by Colonel Washburn.

General Longstreet was in the immediate command of the Confederate forces present, and although an attack was constantly expected from General Grant, directed me to pursue Read and save the bridge over which our army was compelled to cross.

I overtook Read near the bridge, but being apprised of pursuit, he had taken a strong position along the edge of a piece of dense woods and was awaiting my attack. A hasty reconnaissance satisfied me that I could not dislodge him except by assault. I dismounted one brigade under Colonel T. T. Munford, and moving it to the charge on foot, charged with General Dearing's brigade mounted. General Washburn's cavalry had been secreted behind a clump of old pines, and had not been seen by me, and as Dearing moved up against Read's flank, Washburn charged him in flank in the most gallant and determined manner.

The suddenness, boldness, effectiveness and surprise of this charge, although with inferior numbers, threw my mounted brigade into disorder, and a hand to hand fight resulted which suspended temporarily the blow intended by Read. The morning was foggy, it had been raining a little, and through the fog and smoke of battle, it was difficult to see the effect of the attack on foot, and to prevent the temporary interruption of the mounted brigade, causing the attack on foot to fail, I rode rapidly to them, and on my way came upon three mounted men fighting.

There was no one near them, and the fog and smoke obscured them, that I could not make out at first, what I meant. I rode directly toward them, and when near enough to recognize them, saw that two Federal officers were trying to kill or capture Major Breathed. Before I could get to them, Breathed fell, it seemed to be pushed from his horse, but as soon as he touched the ground, two quick shots from his pistol brought both of his assailants reeling to the ground. I could get to them, Breathed fell, it seemed to be pushed from his horse, but as soon as he touched the ground, two quick shots from his pistol brought both of his assailants reeling to the ground.

Breathed followed me, and hearing the firing was trying to join me by some means, when he was set upon by two men, a sergeant and a private, who ordered him to surrender, but instead, he shot the sergeant, and the two captains closed on him with their sabres, and crowded him so closely that he could not use his pistol except to parry, until thrown to the ground.

THOMAS L. ROSSER.



UNITED STATES SENATOR ROGER Q. MILLS.

If it could be put to vote, would command the support of nine-tenths of the body. But if one Senator is opposed to its passage and is willing to talk it to death he may take the floor and speak till 2 o'clock, when, under the rule, the bill goes over and the unfinished business of the former day is taken up. When the bill comes up again the same tactics may be repeated from day to day, and the bill may never be permitted to come to a vote.

TALKING BILLS TO DEATH.
During the recent session the Senate was made to witness its inability to pass measures by majority votes. This practice of talking bills to death may be indulged in on the unfinished business after as well as before 2 o'clock. It has been employed often, in all stages of parliamentary progress. This humiliating spectacle has aroused the indignation of the country and called upon it to change its rules so that it may transact the business imposed upon it by the constitution. So far that demand has not been heeded, but there is a growing spirit of discontent among its members. Individuals exercise it by their single will; collections of men by that of their majority, for the law of the majority is the natural law of every

body of men. . . . The first principle of republicanism is that the majority party is the fundamental law of every society of individuals of equal rights. To consider the will of the majority as sacred as if it were the first of all lessons of importance, yet the last which is thoroughly learned.

THEY HIT IT OUT.
The Senate over a hundred years old, but that first of all lessons of importance has not yet been thoroughly learned. It reaches its vote on all questions like the historic Diet of Poland, by the unanimous agreement of the whole, and not by the act of the majority. The refusal to exercise this natural right of the majority is the principal cause of the troubles which have aroused the displeasure of the country. If a small minority determine that a bill shall not be passed there is no rule by which it can be put to vote. The only course left to the majority is one outside the rules and in most cases where it has been tried it has been found utterly futile. If a majority, however large, determine that a vote shall be had, and the minority determine that it shall not, in Senatorial parlance, they proceed to "sit it out." The Senate refuses to adjourn. The session continues day and night. The minority talks. The majority

may try to sleep, because if the majority can sleep and eat, while the minority talks and watches, the minority must soon prevent this advantage one of the minority suggests the adoption of a quorum. The roll is then called and both sides must appear in the chamber. The sitting out business soon wears out both sides. The majority will find that it cannot continue the "evidences of the verbal exercise," and some settlement of the controversy will be reached by unanimous consent. But this is not the proper way to do the business confided to the Senate. The majority should take upon themselves the obligations imposed upon them by the constitution and make the necessary rules by which they will not execute. By refusing to make a rule to close debate and force a vote the majority abdicates its rightful power and shirks its constitutional duty. It makes it difficult and often impossible for the will of the people to become the law of the land. It prolongs the sessions of Congress, increases the expenses of the government and makes the laws sometimes the result of diplomacy and not legislation.

main question would never be moved until reasonable debate were had, and a majority of its members and the dignity of the Senate would be made impossible.

POWER OF A MINORITY.
Relieved of the abuse of too much speaking the demand upon its time could never be so exacting as to require the improper enforcement of the rule. If any one should move it merely to gag the minority, a majority would always be found to vote it down, and if the majority should sanction this improper use of ninety-nine times in a hundred the minority could protect themselves by breaking the quorum. In a Senate of ninety members the business is ordinarily done by less than sixty. It requires forty-six members to make a quorum. Twenty members could easily compel an arbitrary majority to permit reasonable debate and amendments.

The power to refuse to vote should never be taken from the minority. They are representatives, and as such they must account to their constituents for casting or withholding their votes. No interest should ever be permitted by any rule to count any Senator or Representative except by his own consent. He may determine that he can best protect the interests committed to him by refusing to vote. If he does, and the Chair counts him against him, his representative character is suppressed, and the authority committed to him is usurped by another.

It is often asked in reply to this, "What is the use of compelling the attendance of members?" It is to bring the majority to the Senate that they may discharge the duties incumbent on them. It is not for the minority to change sides